Training centres/information centres for farmers

†18. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to set up training centres/ information centres at the village level with a view to make farmers aware or to impart training to them regarding new ways of agriculture, use of new techniques in agriculture, etc.;

(b) whether it is a fact that experts have been advising to adopt new techniques in agriculture;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government are aware of the setting up of full-fledged training centres for farmers by private companies; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The Department of Information Technology (DIT), as a part of National e-Goverance Plan (NeGP), has a programme to set-up 100,000 Citizen Service Centres by 2007. These centres at village level shall become delivery points for e-services, including information dissemination on agriculture, to the citizen/farmers, once operationalized.

(b) and (c) Need based expert advice on new techniques in agriculture is being provided to farmers, *inter-alia*, under/through the following schemes/institutions of Department of Agriculture & Cooperation and ICAR:—

- Central Integrated Pest Management Centres
- Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms
- Mass media support to Agriculture Extention
- Kisan Call Centres
- Farm Machinery Training and Testing Institutes
- Krishi Vigyan Kendras

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) and (e) Several private companies are providing extension support to farmers. Some of them are:

- ITC-e-Choupal
- TATA Chemical Limited—Kisan Sewa Kendra
- Chambal Fertilizers & Chemicals Limited—Uttar Bandhan

Aims and objectives of NPOP

19. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the results achieved through the National Programme for Organic Production launched in 2000;

(b) the aims and objectives of the National Project on Organic Farming; and

(c) the nutrient management practices recommended by the ICAR for soil to avoid loss of fertility?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The following results have been achieved through the National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) launched in 2000:—

(i) The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has accredited 11 Certification Agencies for certifying organic products.

(ii) APEDA has taken up the issue of establishing equivalency of Indian Organic Standards with European Commission and USDA.

(iii) APEDA organizes awareness programmes for development of organic farming for export. This has led to increase in the certified area under organic production.

(iv) APEDA organizes training programmes for the domestic certification agencies to accredit and make them at par with international certification agencies. As a result 5 domestic certification agencies have been accredited by APEDA.